

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method of testing a network physical layer device (PHY) having a media independent interface (MII) includes sending information between the PHY and a tester along the data buses of the MII. The information may be sent in the form of special frames, the special frames being sent from the tester to the PHY including an identifier. The PHY includes means for detecting the identifier, for extracting control information from the special frames, and for using the control information to execute write operations to and read operations accessing the memory registers of the PHY, and for sending information to the tester. The information may be passed between the PHY at an exemplary rate of 100 Mb/sec.

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